PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

# CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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# JUSTICE FOR RASHAD— ABOLISH THE POLICE!

**INDIANA, August 24**—The Gary Police Department took the life of yet another Black worker: 25-year-old Rashad Cunningham. So, the fires of anti-racism and working-class anger were especially bright today. Progressive Labor Party canvassed with CHALLENGE in Rashad's neighborhood, participated in a local antiracist community cookout, and joined a march in front of the police station. Today showed that the working class needs and are open to communist ideas.

Rashad was shot while sitting in his car in front of his home in Gary on August 17. Since his murder, there have been demonstrations, vigils, and marches organized on a near-daily basis by his family and supported by the community and families of others in the city who have had their loved ones murdered by the same fascist cop force.

## Take CHALLENGE to the neighborhood

Before the cookout, PL'ers went to the neighborhood where Rashad was murdered by the racist GPD and went door-to-door talking to people and selling CHALLENGE, the newspaper that explains that the police force descends from the slave patrols—a militia hired by the enslavers to police and capture runaway enslaved people and punish rebels. No reform that change that basic truth. The ruling class set their sights on destroying the working-class unity by gutting jobs, displacing quality teachers, and terrorizing the working class with kkkops, drugs, and poverty on a massive scale. Along with that, the confidence that the people have in the bosses' politics has also been diminished. However, without a strong Party presence and revolutionary communism as a viable alternative, these workers will turn to inaction. In the face of all of that, determination of the working class in that city still survives.

## The only solution is communist revolution

During the antiracist cookout, fighters who were formerly incarcerated, who led actions in prison and continue to be a source of support and leadership for men and women on both sides of the wall, spoke about the importance of solidarity. They discussed their personal experiences with the racist and sexist prison system, and how they felt these systems existed solely for the benefit of oppressing Black, Latin, and white workers.

More workers spoke about the need for people to be purposefully active and to engage with others to help fight back PLP highlighted that without an understanding of how racism and sexism is rooted in capitalism and class, and without multiracial unity in fighting locally and internationally, then we are giving the bosses space to continue to profit from our misery. Communist revolution under the leadership of PLP, not the bosses' dead-end reforms, is what will free our class!

After the program ended, we spoke to people present about the PLP's current work and history. We distributed CHALLENGE and sold our "Black and Red" t-shirts, which feature the pictures of known Black communists in the U.S. We got contacts of those who expressed interest in learning more about PLP.

As always, PLP must continue to be steeped in the mass movement. We build relationships with other members of our class, connecting our various struggles to the failures of capitalism, and the need for communist revolution.

We must continue to put forward communist ideas. Not doing this leaves the working class open to bad politics from reformist groups, or even worse, without a political analysis to tie together these capitalist abuses.

## Black workers lead the way

After the cookout, PL'ers joined the family and friends of Rashad Cunningham, and the families of other slain youth—15-year-old Kemonte Cobbs and 38-year-old Thomas Watkins—in a protest at the Gary police station (see photo). Rashad's two friends who were in the car with him were brutally beaten. His family has yet to receive as much as a statement from the police as to why their family member was killed.

The protesters marched around the station and told their own stories of abuses at the hands of these brutal cops. There are no answers for these families or justice under capitalism. These cops function to terrorize the working class. The only solution is to ultimately dismantle capitalist state power, and to build a world run by workers for workers using communist ideology. Under communism, the police will be abolished. The working class will solve its own problems through the collective.

Until then, we must fight back together as a class and build class-consciousness. We must take advantage of every chance the bosses and their agents leave for us to learn and grow in our revolutionary politics. We must put forward communist politics lead these working-class struggles because the lives of our class depend on it. Fight Back! ✪

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# OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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## WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

# Kashmir: nationalism & regional rivalry on the rise

On August 5, 38,000 paramilitary troops from India entered the "semi-autonomous" area of Kashmir, an open act of imperialist occupation. They were acting on orders from hyper-nationalist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his fascist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This is just the latest in a string of vicious attacks conducted by the BJP, which has dramatically ramped up anti-Muslim racism in the country. Recently it threatened to strip citizenship status from nearly four million workers in the Indian state of Assam, and deport them to Bangladesh (Slate, 8/9).

In service to the Indian capitalist ruling class, Modi and the BJP are desperately trying to consolidate control over resource-rich Kashmir at the expense of capitalist rivals in Pakistan and China. They have been emboldened by the tacit support of imperialists in the U.S. and European Union, who share an interest in slowing the advance of Chinese imperialism.

As with any conflict between rival capitalist bosses, the working class stands to suffer the most. Confronted with the poisons of imperialism, nationalism, and religious fundamentalism, workers in Kashmir need to reject all capitalist political traps in favor of proletarian internationalism. As the international working class, we must unite in the communist Progressive Labor Party and organize a mass Red Army that crushes the capitalist class worldwide and builds a communist society to meet workers' needs.

## Economic, political crisis drive Indian fascism

For years, Modi and the BJP have sought to divide workers by fanning the flames of anti-Muslim racism. In 2015, a year after the party assumed power, India saw a 17 percent increase in religiously motivated violence (India Today, 2/10/17). In 2002, as chief minister of Gujarat state, Modi himself infamously presided over the massacre of more than a thousand Muslims at the hands of fascist mobs (Washington Post, 8/16).

India is the world's seventh largest economy, home to a huge, productive working class and major industrial centers. But the contradictions of capitalism are provoking an economic contraction. Growth slowed to 6.8 percent in 2018 and to 5.7 percent in the last fiscal quarter. The automobile and real estate industries are in crisis (Economic Times, 8/21).

By exerting more direct control over Kashmir, the Indian ruling class sees an opportunity to reverse the economic slowdown. They hope to cancel a law blocking outsiders from buying property in the state, a potential land grab like the Israeli bosses' racist seizure of territory in occupied Palestine. Although the population of Kashmir at present is majority Muslim, the Indian rulers' takeover could drastically change the demographic to majority Hindu—a de facto and inevitably deadly ethnic cleansing (Foreign Affairs, 8/9).

The BJP also aims to take charge of Kashmir's glaciers and rivers, including the Indus, which serves almost 270 million people (GlacierHub, 3/13). Control over fresh water equates to power in India, where lethal heat waves this summer rocked the country and killed dozens (New York Times, 6/13). As climate change threatens greater ecological destruction, the bosses' fights over water will only become more deadly.

## Inter-imperialist rivalry sharpens in South Asia

That the U.S. and EU made hardly a sound about the occupation speaks to their own internal divisions, but also to the rise of fascism on an international scale. The gutter racist politics of Modi and the BJP finds common ground with nationalist appeals from U.S. Klansman-in-chief Donald Trump, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, and France's Marine Le Pen.

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The U.S. and European bosses' tolerance of Modi's aggression in Kashmir also reflects India's strategic importance as a counter to rising imperialist power China. China has governed a portion of Kashmir since the early 1960s, and recently has pushed to expand its influence in the region. China's massive Belt and Road Initiative has invested nearly $50 billion in the area (Foreign Affairs, September 2019).

The Chinese rulers' support for Pakistan, India's chief regional rival, sharpens the inter-imperialist tensions. In 2016, the Chinese Overseas Port Holding Company opened a deep water port in the coastal Pakistani city of Gwadar in populous Balochistan Province, securing a 43-year contract for resource extraction. At least 22,000 students from Pakistan are now studying in China, a dramatic increase (The Diplomat, 1/24/18). The Indian bosses' racist anti-worker offensive in Kashmir aims not only to weaken Pakistani capitalism today, but also to prepare for a Chinese imperialist challenge tomorrow.

Although Trump's erratic foreign policy has complicated relations here as elsewhere, the U.S. ruling class remains mostly aligned in backing India as a counterweight to China. Both Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and former Secretary of Defense James Mattis paid diplomatic visits after India purchased a missile system from the Russian bosses (Bloomberg, 9/3/18).

While Trump and the domestically oriented capitalists he represents bear obvious political parallels to Modi's racist nationalism, the finance capital main wing of U.S. imperialism has nurtured close economic and military ties with the Indian capitalists for close to two decades, through the Barack Obama presidency (Foreign Affairs, September 2019).

## Reject all capitalist misleaders, fight for communist revolution

Though treated as pawns in a power struggle between multiple nuclear-armed countries, workers in Kashmir have not taken their oppression and exploitation lying down. Since the start of the Indian military occupation in early August, the working class has regularly clashed with security forces and led marches and demonstrations in opposition. In the Soura neighborhood of Srinagar, Kashmir's largest city, workers have put up barricades and armed themselves with stones (Al Jazeera, 8/20).

Unfortunately, the workers' brave efforts risk being absorbed into the bosses' reactionary movements. Local opposition parties, like the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party, have vocally opposed the occupation. But these liberal reformers will never advocate for the destruction of capitalism and the dictatorship of the working class. Like all bosses, they seek to unite workers around the dead ends of nationalism and religion—the covers they need to exploit us in their own interests.

To truly advance to our own collective liberation, we need a Party that rejects all of the bosses' deadly schemes: the international Progressive Labor Party. Building a mass PLP to organize communist revolution is the only way out of the disaster of capitalism. From Kashmir to Palestine, from Mexico to Tanzania—workers of the world, unite!✪

# FIGHT ICE RAIDS, SMASH ALL BORDERS!

**MARYLAND, August 27**— "La Lucha Obrera no Tiene Frontera" and "Racism Means We Have to Fight Back" rang out in Hyattsville, Maryland to protest raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Workers demanded solidarity with immigrants and formerly incarcerated persons in this sanctuary city.

This rally was called at a forum on immigration the previous week where Progressive Labor Party and friends joined to plan a response against the rising deportations. Participants concluded that capitalism creates borders to divide and scare workers, when in fact no worker should be considered "illegal," and no barriers to movement should exist since the working class is global by definition. Communists insist on smashing all borders, a goal that can only be achieved by waging a worldwide working-class revolution.

## Workers embrace red ideas

We distributed over 200 flyers at the rally, with contact information for building a rapid response network to ICE raids in Hyattsville. Workers in the neighborhood received 40 copies of CHALLENGE newspaper; seven signed up for further contact.

Two workers related their struggles with ICE, and we pledged our solidarity with them. Two local residents spontaneously brought us Gatorade and snacks as a token of solidarity and appreciation for this antiracist demonstration. This shows that the working class is looking for leadership and fightback. It is up to communists to give that leadership.

## ICE + PD: state terrorists collaborate

The protest was organized following a petition campaign in which PLP participated to demand an end to local police collaboration with ICE. CASA, an immigrant rights organization, documented nine instances over the preceding months in which local police called in ICE, despite assurances that they would not do so.

When the Assistant Chief of Police Hector Velez was confronted with the irrefutable facts, he denied them as impossible because such actions would have violated police policy. This shows how the bosses' laws are abided to the extent that it serves them.

The police chief himself was forced to admit to one case, but claimed that the cop was acting in good faith; the cop was "confused" over the difference between a civil and a criminal ICE warrant. Such hypocrisy is standard police operating procedure! Meanwhile, it is too late for the people deported as a result of this cop's "confusion." The police here exposed themselves as the ruling-class agents that they are. They serve and protect the rulers—their banks, property, and interests.

## Reform is about bosses' infighting

The petition drive was highlighted by the vocal presence of petitioners at several political events, which ultimately forced the County Executive Angela Alsobrooks to issue an official statement confirming that the police were not to cooperate with ICE for noncriminal deportations. She further announced that the General Orders of the police department would be changed to include an explicit statement to that effect, and that the policy would be presented at roll call in all police districts.

The liberal politicians would like to play themselves as the good guys. This defiance to ICE is not about protecting working-class lives; it's about their own infighting. While Trump's deportation sweeps represent the isolationist America-first faction of the U.S. ruling class, the Democratic-led politicians and government represent the dominant finance imperialist wing of the U.S. ruling class. This main wing is spearheaded by the Rockefellers, JP Morgan, and ExxonMobil. While the main wing needs immigration and a multiracial army for world war, the subordinate wing's interests are primarily national. These domestically oriented capitalists, spearheaded by the Koch and Mercer families, are contesting the main wing's control. They have forged an opportunistic alliance with the unpredictable U.S. President Donald Trump and his white supremacist base. They are out to try to tear down the post-World War II liberal world order and multinational institutions like NATO. His domestic and foreign policy directives are tailored to benefit his wealthy, self-interested benefactors more than the long-term strategic interests of global U.S. imperialism.

Given that context, county executive Alsobrooks's decision is part of a broader effort of the liberal rulers trying to inject their ideology into top-down reform movements.

This modest reform will not reverse the anti-immigrant attacks of U.S. capitalists on our brothers and sisters from around the world. The vicious ICE raids against this month's Mississippi poultry workers alone demonstrate their determination to terrorize our class. In Maryland, we must maintain momentum in building a rapid response team to oppose ICE on the streets and in the courthouse, demand jobs for returning residents, and continue to work with our friends to support new immigrants arriving in the city and county.

These class struggles will serve as a training ground for a mass communist revolution that obliterates the bosses and their borders and unifies our class on a global scale. ✪

# NEWARK WATER CRISIS EXPOSES RACIST LIBERALS

**NEWARK, AUGUST 28**—As the recent protests at the MTV Video Music Awards demonstrate, the racist liberal Ras Baraka administration and this capitalist system continues to poison the working class of Newark.

This month, the Environmental Protection Agency notified Newark that two of three homes tested with PUR filters still have high levels of lead, despite the discovery of lead 3 years ago. The EPA cynically suggested the working class drink bottled water.

These events are a textbook example of how racism wreaks havoc on Black and Latin workers. It also shows how these liberal politicians like Mayor Baraka appear to be "for the people," but they represent the interests of capitalism.

The health of our class in Newark is in peril. Yet, one thing *is* clear—this country is moving towards war and fascism. It is not enough to fight for clean water; we must struggle to overthrow the capitalist system that is using its resources towards war with countries like China and Russia rather than water for workers. The revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) unites workers internationally to fight for working-class power: communism.

## Echo of Flint

Eighty five percent of Newark is Black or Latin and the working class has been suffering through the blatant racism unsafe drinking water.

Lead is a powerful neurotoxin. It can lead to developmental delays, hearing loss, seizures, learning difficulties, and behavioral disorders in children. Adults can develop mental, nerve, kidney, and cardiovascular problems. Pregnant women are at risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, and newborns with irreversible damage to their brain and nervous system. There is no such thing as a "safe" level of lead consumption.

The Baraka administration knew this in 2016, when over 30 schools had to turn off their water. Newark was out of compliance with federal lead regulations. "Newark reported yet another exceedance of the 15 parts per billion federal action level for lead in drinking water—this time, lead levels are tapping in at 55 parts per billion, more than three times the federal action level" (Natural Resource Defense Council).

Newark politicians stayed silent. In April 2018, the Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and the Newark Education Workers (NEW) Caucus made an announcement: they intend to file a lawsuit. Even then, the City still confused people by announcing on their website, "NEWARK'S WATER IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE TO DRINK."

## Liberal politicians' racism continues

It wasn't until October 2018, when the trial was set to begin, that the City admitted to the lead problem. Even then, half of the residents have yet to recieve filters. People were turned away, given the wrong filters, or not taught properly how to install and use them.

The City had to replace lead service lines for each home. The lead service line connects the water main to individual homes. In Flint and Pittsburgh, those lines were replaced for free. In Newark, residents are expected to pay up to $1,000 to replace their line. This was the same City that found money to give Jeff Bezos and Amazon $8 billion in tax credits. Newark has only removed 755 lead service lines out of 18,000 so far (they were supposed to start in July 2018).

Under communism, we would change the entire way this crisis is being dealt with. The problem wouldn't have been acute, if existent at all, because the society's resources would be allocated according to need, not profits or wars. With the working class in charge, all homes would be tested rigorously; all lead would be removed immediately because there would be one main determinant: safety. We would train millions to help solve and prevent the problem.

## Trusting Democrats is toxic

While the Republicans and Trump are openly racist and clearly enemies of the working class—particularly Black and Latin workers, trusting the Democrats is clearly toxic. The Baraka administration continues to lie about the extent of the crisis. While those in the Pequannock town continue to struggle with high lead levels and inadequate resources from the City, those in the Wanaque town are getting zero support! City hall continues to lie about the extent of the lead in the East Ward, as well as parts of the North, Central, and South wards. They even refused to give out cheap PUR filters to these residents.

The administration has done little: distributed filters with fast-approaching expiration dates, improper installation. When asked to be more proactive in assisting the residents, the City cries that they don't have the resources. While these politicians don't have the resources for Black and Latin workers, they have resources for war and fascism.

This crisis shows us how capitalism is a democracy for the bosses and a dictatorship for the working class. Even after all of this, Newark still refuses to give out relief to the eastern part of the City because their water comes from a different reservoir. There is evidence that lead problems exist in this area as well but the bosses don't care! (NRDC, Olson, 4/30).

When money is needed for war, or to give to their allies like Saudi Arabia or Israel, or when banks need billions to get bailed out—money is never a problem. When the working class needs basic drinking water—the burden is on us to fight for it.

## Money for war & police state but not for water

Time and time again, the ruling class will present us with wolves in sheeps' clothing. Democratic Party politicians like Congressman Alibo Sires and Donald Payne Jr. voted for a $1.4 trillion war budget but have done nothing for relief in this City. Their interests lie with JP Morgan Chase, Exxon Mobil, and the rest of the corporations that rule the US. That is why they can put trillions towards building the war machine while not even discussing the poisoning of Black and Latin workers and youth in Newark.

Senators Cory Booker (the first Black senator from New Jersey and campaigner for the 2020 presidential election) and Robert Menendez have also been silent. As then-mayor, Booker's mismanagement of the now-defunct Newark Watershed had led to today's many problems. And while Booker voted "no" on the current military spending, he has approved it 16 of the 19 times since being a Senator. It is clear that these Democratic politicians know whom they serve—and it isn't the Black and Latin working class of Newark.

While the country prepares for war on a national scale, the Newark government is building a police state to keep the working class in line. The City claims that they don't have the resources for clean water; the Mayor Baraka has just put aside $23 million to hire more cops for this coming year (Tapinto.com, 7/2).

## Newark workers keep fighting

The Newark Water Coalition, a multiracial and multi-generational organization led by honest, energetic, and creative youth and elders. They have organized forums, open mics, and protests around these issues. They have also worked to distribute filters and water to residents in need. Not only are they fighting back but also they are serving the working class and making sure they get what they need. This past week, the Newark Water Coalition organized a demonstration at the 2019 MTV Video Music Awards (VMA's), hosted at Newark's Prudential Center. Fascist bosses sent every cop in the City along with state pigs to lock down the perimeter and block out protestors. Some cops were saddled up on horses and would form a formation along the barricades, ready to defend property over people.

While many are still focused on getting Baraka out, PLP is in the fight, advocating for our energy to be put towards fighting for clean water now and communism in the future. Some members have been receptive to our ideas.

## Fight for communism

While we fight for filters and clean water, we must win the working class to a bigger idea— one of no more capitalists using the earth's resources for profit and power. An idea that the working class will rule over our own resources. PLP fights for communism. That means that the working class will run society.

We will continue fighting so that our health will not be compromised by the ruling class and their drive towards war. Under capitalism, mostly Black and Latin workers continued to be poisoned by lead. Under communism, they will be the decision makers of their own lives. We urge all to join Progressive Labor Party study and action groups. Subscribe to our newspaper CHALLENGE, and fight for a communist world! ✪

# Build multiracial solidarity against deportations

**NEW YORK CITY, AUGUST 9**— On the weekend fascist Trump ordered massive roundup-deportation of immigrants, a multiracial congregation in Harlem and members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) met to develop a plan with the goal of building solidarity with our class sisters and brothers under attack by the bosses fascist criminalization of migrant workers. For the last two years PLP comrades and our friends in the church work have been organizing as part the New Sanctuary coalition in response to these racist attacks. Through our efforts we've been able to use the church as a conduit for class consciousness, as we welcome workers seeking refuge, to show that the working class is on their side and that they do not have to live in fear.

## Only workers can protect and serve our class

The decision to turn this church into a sanctuary was positive step forward in our work because we were able to win Black,white, and Latin workers to the idea that we should unite, with fellow workers who are undocumented to fight racist deportations. In these turbulent times we hope to our advance the following goals; gain the confidence of the working class and transform the character of this struggle, in order to win workers to the understanding that there is only one sanctuary for workers: communism.

After Trump announced that he would deploy ICE, or the modern day Gestapo, the working class in New York City immediately rose to the occasion. Workers were reportedly forming networks that would send out alerts if anyone in ICE was spotted. In Harlem and Sunset Park workers botched ICE's attempts. Recently our church has followed sui boldly marking our organization with an S for sanctuary. We were also able to organize workers involved in our food support and outreach services –largely to Latin to lead the struggle. Several of us have listed ourselves as "on call" whenever an immigrant seeks help in the church. We developed a working group and a rapid response protocol for when an emergency presents itself. We agreed that in such a circumstance one of us will immediately go to the church and meet with our sister/brother. Then we will call all the possible respondents to get them "on the case." Once help is secured we will organize temporary shelter and sustenance for our new friends.

In addition to our response plan, we're becoming more pro-active in politiczing our work, by raising the level of discussion around immigration with our base. This stuggle gave us the opportunity to impress upon workers that these mass migrations are no coincidence, and that their root causes are the genocidal conditions around the world stem from imperialism. Some weeks ago the NYT published an op ed piece from a Guatemalan mother: "Food No Longer Grows Here; I Must Send My Sons North to Survive!"The depredations of capitalist-caused climate emergency have brought deadly drought to significant territories in Central America.One young member of our church recently spent a year in a Guatemalan village serving in maternal/child health. She has agreed that our church board reach out to the church she was active in there to establish regular communication. Last night eleven of us in out Party Study-Action group began to draft a letter to the parish our member had been active in.

## Fight fascism, gain workers confidence

Among our goals is to learn much more about conditions "on the ground" there and to begin to understand in more depth how U.S. imperialist domination is causing genocidal conditions in Central America and beyond. We hope not only to learn but to act: organizing more generally stateside against U.S. support for local fascist murder and to fight for the socio-economic aid that can begin to save lives and to reverse the stream of immigration-for-survival.

Most of all we want to show workers that we should not only fight Trump's brash open fascism, but we should not depend on the leadership of the liberals or Ocasio Cortez types, who only advocate for nicer and safer concentration camps but are not against ending the miserable exploitation that workers face daily under this system. Our actions and the actions of workers to protect fellow workers against these attacks speak louder, and show that when the working class is under attack we're the first to move to defend and serve each other. Finally, we must strive to grow our base through this work, in order to build the international workers' revolution, that is the only strategic hope for seven billion of us to begin to live and thrive on the ruins of the genocidal capitalist world!✪

# Letters: readers respond to Hong Kong editorial

It is important to be prepared to talk to friends about the Hong Kong protests, which are being touted as an example of successful peaceful protest despite the fact that they have turned violent rather quickly. Anti-communist sentiment is also being stoked among workers in both the U.S and Hong Kong, with people praising Hong Kong for resisting the oppressive regime.

We understand the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has long morphed into a rising a rising imperialist power. Some friends of mine consider Hong Kong as possessing more freedom such as that of speech compared to mainland China.

However, a recent CHALLENGE editorial is powerful in pointing out though that the average resident's living space is about the same size as a parking spot often shared by multiple people.

Although Hong Kong worker's discontent with CCP is valid, this energy is being collected by the U.S. bosses in their competition with Chinese bosses. While these protests are militant, and show the power of organized action, Progressive Labor Party must work to continually clarify that in essence, this is a fight over which set of bosses, the Hong Kong bosses or mainland Chinese bosses, will exploit the workers. The main driving force behind these protests is inter-imperialist conflict. This is evident in that these protests are being lauded by the main wing US bosses media.

I appreciated the CHALLENGE editorial because from it I learned that the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) financially backed the protests, the same main-wing front group that funded the (failed) Arab Spring.

It also clarified how involvement in these protests is part of a long-term intention by the U.S. bosses to interfere with China's attempts to integrate Hong Kong into its greater bay project to bolster the economy. The situation in Hong Kong is a good example of how liberals pose a greater threat to the working class, as they absorb this energy and funnel it towards the bosses' aims.

The CHALLENGE editorial (8/28) on the massive Hong Kong protests said:

> *Images of masses of people attacking the cops and shutting down a center of global finance may seem inspiring…[but] At their core, the Hong Kong protests are a reactionary, anti-worker movement [that] serve the interests of local billionaires…[against] the once-revolutionary Chinese Communist Party (CCP).*

CHALLENGE is right to point out the contradictions between (US-backed) Hong Kong and Beijing billionaires and to expose the right-wing racist forces involved. Yet, there are contradictions within a struggle. The CCP has brought fascism to China. Prisons are filled with anti-fascist workers and students who have led strikes, organized unions, and tried to rebuild the revolutionary communist movement.

The demonstrations in Hong Kong were triggered by a proposed law that would extradite many of these same protesters to mainland China to sit in jail cells with other anti-fascists. In addition, Hong Kong is one of the most expensive cities in the world, and this is also fueling the youth protests. The CHALLENGE editorial acknowledged this as well.Hong Kong youth have fought pitched battles with police and armed thugs and shut down Hong Kong International Airport more than once. They are showing mass bravery.

There are many contradictions in every struggle: in Puerto Rico, Sudan, Venezuela, Kashmir and elsewhere. Isn't the U.S. flag present at most pro-refugee rallies and on striking workers' picket lines? What would we do if we were in Hong Kong now?

We should always support the struggles of workers and students against all the bosses, while showing some humility in pointing out the limits and traps that lead them away from the road to revolution. In Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, Sudan and elsewhere, the working class is fighting back. These struggles create the possibility for the growth of a new communist movement.

★★★★★

*CHALLENGE responds:* CCP's fascism doesn't soften the reactionary nature of Hong Kong. It's essentially a U.S.-backed nationalist movement to hurt imperialist China. Workers there who can see through this should unite with mainland workers and give leadership independent of the bosses.

# Revolutionary greetings from cadre school in Haiti

*The following letters are from participants at a three-day cadre school about political economy in Haiti.*

I learned a lot, and it wasn't learning just for the sake of learning. It was to get us to a position that is consistent with the fight for communism.

I think that every year, our Party school makes me a more determined communist, makes me stronger when I engage in the mass movement, to struggle to transform it into a revolutionary movement, to transform reform struggle into a radical change—communism.

Communism must—and will—totally replace capitalism, no interim steps such as socialism. We want to fight for the whole package, and do away with all remnants of the past society.

Long live real change, long live radical change! Long live communism!

★

As a member of PLP in Haiti, I found that our initiative to study political economy was an opportunity for us all to reflect on a communist society, where human beings can live as human beings, not as wage slaves, without discrimination, according to our needs.

The school helped us understand how to think about fighting to change capitalism, a system that sucks the blood from the working class, that sits on a base of exploitation, social inequality, racism, sexism, and war.

★

We discussed the differences between communism (where wage slavery is smashed and the working class is in control of society to produce for its needs) and socialism (which keeps wage slavery but gives workers a few crumbs, like Venezuela, where I studied).

I learned a lot from all, including a study of migration of workers from different parts of the world in search of work so they can eat, and to escape from capitalist-inspired wars and other kinds of violence. We also read editorials from CHALLENGE on the G20 summit; the struggle in Hong Kong revealing the weaknesses of nationalism, and the effects of inter-imperialist rivalry between the China and the U.S.; and Sudan.

What we learned makes me feel prepared to speak about these things wherever I meet workers and others in struggle. Thank you for organizing this. To the final victory!

★

Whether we have a "big" job that pays well, or a "small" job that barely pays enough, we are all wage slaves. A communist should live just like all other workers, sticking to our principles about how we live alongside each other, engaged in a daily struggle to change this system.

When a worker is unemployed, it's an indication that the she has no importance for the bosses, who don't care whether or not she can eat or take care of her family. If the boss fires a worker, he knows a thousand other unemployed workers standing in the streets, available to replace him.

I was pleased to be part of team because it helped me understand all that my class and I are capable of doing to smash this system.

★

What touched me the most during the classes was to arrive at the understanding that class war will continue to exist even after the new society—communism—will be born. Keeping a wage system, as in the experience of the Chinese revolution, in particular, was illuminating on what not to do.

We hope that our political study will continue, and that we learn to engage with the masses of workers and students so that communist revolution will become a reality everywhere.

Thanks to the school, I learned a lot of things about capitalism.

We talked about the migration of workers from different parts of the world looking for work, to escape grinding poverty and war. We in Haiti know about this first hand, because Haiti produces more low-paid human labor—a "reserve army"—than anything else, but because there are no jobs here, workers have always been forced to migrate elsewhere, and to work for the lowest wages.

I am starting to develop class-consciousness, which is new to me, and will help me rid myself of the feeling of despair that the capitalist system has built up in me.

I can now help my comrades spread these ideas among other people in my town and school, so that they also develop the consciousness that working for money in this system does not allow people to live as human beings should live.

Thanks for all of this!

★

The school showed the strength of our ideas: the presentations and discussions were lively, especially for those friends in our base who participated with us in this kind of activity for the first time. We have to continue to develop our ideological relationship to the base of the Party here.

Each time we study together, we are on the right path, training and educating our cadre and our base to put an end, once and for all, with the domination of the false ideas of capitalism.

★

We looked at many aspects of political economy. Sometimes the debate got very animated—I'd even say "hot"—but it always brought light to the advancement of our communist cause.

I propose some changes: plan the school at least six months in advance; guarantee that translated works in Creole and French are available; change location from the city to a rural area and combine study with practical work in the mass movement, for example with a group working on reforestation.

We could organize classes for the students and their parents on the root cause of deforestation and mass poverty in Haiti—the capitalist system that cares more about profits than the needs of workers.

★

The school was organized in a way to show that "tout moun se moun," that is, that all workers have value as human beings. In our school, we are all students and teachers at the same time. There is no individualism in this way—we are all equal. Together we teach, together we learn.

Also, it's not a school where we just sit around and talk. It's a training ground for revolutionary communists—to continually study, act, study, act—to become stronger communists in word and deed in order to overthrow the capitalist system.

★

The main text was the PL magazine article. Participants were assigned sections of text to present (the French method of "explication de texte," a close examination, analysis and exposition concerning the interrelationship of the parts to the whole), and then opened the floor to discussion.

We would struggle through disagreements and guarantee as best we could that everyone got a chance to speak. We also ended up with a list of things that we want to address in the future, which can be done through PLP club study.

Several people who attended last year's school participated more in the debate than they had previously, a reflection of their political development in class struggle and the usefulness of the school in developing local communist leaders.

It was noted by several comrades that Party schools are a place where we need not fear speaking openly, where there are no unimportant questions, where we all learn from one another—students and teachers at the same time—so that we, the international working class, can move forward together to communist revolution.

★

# Rest in power, Ginette

Marie Ginette Baptiste, known as Ginette or Jou Jou to her friends and family, died on August 3 after a protracted battle with frontotemporal dementia. Her warm nature, shaped by class-consciousness, and fighting spirit will live on through the work of Progressive Labor Party.

Ginette was born in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. She moved to Brooklyn in 1965 when she was 14 years old. It was at a tenant's meeting at an apartment building where she lived in Brooklyn that she first met fellow tenants who were also comrades in Progressive Labor Party. There began a friendship and comradeship that lasted for decades. She joined the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR), a group led by PLP, and later joined the Party. Ginette then moved to Newark, New Jersey where she raised her two children, continuing her activity in InCAR and PLP.

### 'Serving the people'

Ginette became very active in the Ivy Hill Neighborhood Association, as did several other comrades. She was very community-minded, and spent countless hours giving of herself to serve her community. She hosted many neighborhood meetings and parties at her house. She, along with several other committed members, was instrumental in helping to create a spirit of "serving the people" in the Association.

Ginette believed strongly in anti-racism and anti-sexism. Although she herself did not come from a working-class background, she took the side of the working class in the battle against oppression. Ginette realized that there was something fundamentally wrong with a political and economic system where racism and sexism were and are endemic. Along with other comrades in Newark and around the world, she fought hard to bring about a worker-centered egalitarian communist world where those "isms" would become a distant memory.

### Comradeship to last a lifetime

We in PLP will never forget Ginette's warmth, sincerity, joyous laughter and graciousness in welcoming us into her home in Newark. She became friends right away with Newark comrades, and we maintained that strong friendship throughout the time she lived in Newark. Ginette also introduced us to several of her neighbors and relatives, who we also befriended.

Ginette's pro-communist politics were evident in her actions. Over the years, Ginette's family bonded with the children of other comrades in the neighborhood. When the weather was warm, Ginette threw wonderful parties in her backyard with, of course, delicious Haitian and other foods. Although we could not match her cooking, we looked to hers as an example to emulate!

As it is for so many others, Ginette's debilitating illness was a tragic way to end her otherwise rich and engaged life. Although she is no longer with us, those of us who knew and loved her will deeply remember her ethos of working-class community. ✪

## RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from the capitalist press that may be of use for our readers.
*NYT=New York Times*
*GW= Guardian Weekly*

### "NO PAY, WE STAY!" Miners block tracks

Harlan County, Ky. Mountain News, 7/29 — People and organizations continued to stop by a railroad track in Cumberland…bringing food and water to protesting miners. The miners have prevented a train hauling coal from Cloverlick #3 mine….One group among the endless stream of supporters….rolled their mobile kitchen to Harlan to feed the miners free of charge…Blackjewel failed to pay them for weeks of hard work and the way the company filed for bankruptcy prevents miners from accessing their 401ks, making it even harder for them to feed their families….

The miners…promise to not move until they get the money they are owed. The company owes them thousands….Miners…set up a few miles down the railroad tracks, where they are blocking the train from leaving the Cloverlick #3 mine….

All of the miners out there have not been paid. Some are $3,000 in the hole, with their accounts frozen and bills delinquent….The miners have signs that read, "no pay, we stay." Cars and trucks driving past are honking their support, and the community is rallying behind them…Miners and their families camped out on the train tracks…to make sure none of the coal loaded on the trains coming from the mine in Cloverlick was able to get in or out.Miners have one clear message: Pay them for what they worked for….Shane Smith… told WYMT that he would go to jail before he would move….The miners and their families plan on working in shifts to keep the tracks blocked…. Around 60 to 100 people are blocking the tracks….

### "Who "invaded" whom? U.S. & co stole over $165 TRILLION from Mexico

NYT 8/11, (Book Review: "The Immigrant's Manifesto" by Suketu Mehta) — Contemporary migration is a direct descendant of colonialism. Europeans and Americans stole gold, silver, cash, crops and human beings from the places people are now fleeing en masse….

How to quantify what is owed?....The amount of silver shipped between 1503 and the early 1800s "would amount to a debt of $165 trillion… [owed] Latin America today…."Between 1970 and 2010, Mexico lost $872 billion in illegal financial outflows, most of it going from corporations doing business in the country to American banks. In nearly the same time period, 16 million Mexicans came to the United States. "They were just following the money, Mehta writes. "Their money."… "Forty percent of all the national borders in the entire world today were made by…Britain and France…." "If rich countries don't want the poor countries to migrate, then there's another solution," Mehta suggests. "Pay them what they're owed."

### The racist U.S. presidency: from Washington to Trump

NYT, 7/31 — Ronald Reagan…in 1971… phoned the White House…and, according to a newly released audio recording, call African people [racist slur]…that sparked laughter from the president of the United States…."To see those [racist slur] from those African countries, damn them," Reagan said.In other recordings, Nixon went on to…describing the African delegates [to the UN] as [racist slur]….The audio was the latest reminder of the long history of racism by American presidents…

"This is not just a story about Reagan's racism," said [the director of Nixon's Presidential Library]…."It's also a reminder of how in the Oval Office, racism can beget racism," and "reveal latent racism in others…."From the beginning, the American presidency has been stained by racial prejudice….Such views have persisted well into modern times.… You'll find something like this in probably most presidents of the 20th century," said…a professor at Columbia University….

George Washington owned slaves and wrote that "most" were lazy….Theodore Roosevelt dismissed "Negroes" as a "perfectly stupid race," while Woodrow Wilson and Dwight Eisenhower frequently…told racist jokes. Lyndon Johnson… espoused racist views, often referring to African-Americans using slurs.And Nixon's own tapes… revealed that he made disparaging remarks about Jews, black people, Italian-Americans and Irish-Americans while in the Oval Office.Reagan…after the Republican convention…in 1980…gave a speech…in Mississippi [at a location] where three young civil rights works were murdered in 1964, seen…as a subtle not to white segregationists.

### No change since Mike Brown was killed

NYT, 8/7 — FERGUSON, Mo, — They avoid main roads. They maintain good posture. Sometimes they choose not to drive at all.For years, some black drivers in the St. Louis area have taken these precautions to avoid getting pulled over by the police. And yet it has not seemed to prevent them from getting stopped, ticketed and fined at higher rates than people of other races.

After a police officer killed…Michael Brown five years ago…protests there rocked the nation, leading to a public outcry over race and policing. People…throughout St. Louis County had [cops] issuing traffic tickets to finance city services — and jailing drivers who could not afford to pay — with black residents bearing the brunt of those policies.Five years later black drivers continue to be stopped at much higher rates than white drivers…...Blake Strode…director of…a legal advocacy organization that has fought ticketing practices, [cited]…structural racism, poverty,… policing and prosecution. That is s real today in 2009 as it was five years ago in 2014….During a traffic court session in Ferguson in mid-July… almost everyone appearing before the judge that day was black….

De'Shaun Bunch said he was a prime target…. "I'm a black man and driving a nice car….It's the same. They were doing it before, they're still doing it now. It ain't changed since Mike Brown died…."

Mr. Brown said…driving while black in St. Louis remained the same as [it has] for years.

# NYC's integration plan, a battle of the bosses

The latest proposal to address the most segregated and largest public school system—eliminate all "gifted" programs. Why now?

For the last twenty years the liberal politicians in New York City have sanctioned the segregation of the school system at the expense of Black and Latin youth in favor of relying on a few elite high schools to directly serve the needs of the ruling class. Public schools today are more segregated than they were in 1954, when the U.S. Supreme Court, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, acknowledge that "separate" could never be equal.

However, now, with greater competition internationally and domestically the bosses need to reverse that trend in order to have a united working class in preparation for future wars.

## How do you spell racist? DoE

The Department of Education (DoE), and their racist policies consigns the vast majority of Black and Latin children—approximately 75 percent of the city's 1.1 million public school student population—to a segregated, second class education. These bosses continually expose themselves as the shameless racists they are by subjecting students to daily searches, unequal funding, unsafe drinking water, and unhealthy lunches.

## It has to do with war & splits

With war plans always on the burner for the imperialists, they need a more robust multiracial-armed force to take on their biggest rivals, China and Russia. They also need to fight their domestically oriented rivals who have not been won to the Big Fascists' long-term outlook, "Rising inequality also is straining the health of liberal democracy. The idea of 'we the people' is fading because, in this era of yawning inequality, there is less we share in common. As a result, it is harder to build support for the kinds of policies necessary to deliver broad-based prosperity in the long term, like public investment in education and infrastructure" (NYT 8/24). These Big Fascists understand that president Donald Trump, and the domestic-oriented bosses whom he represents, is bad for a liberal world order. The Democrats are corralling supporting for a top-down reform movement that will be used to crush the opposition. In other words, this fake anti-racism will be used as leverage against the subordinate wing.

For the main wing bosses, there is a need for them to win the allegiance of the most disaffected youth and their families into believing the system can work for them. In New York City, that is the role of the fairly newly appointed chancellor of schools, Richard Carranza—he is the latest person that has been chosen to break up the old status quo and attempt to put in place a new face on the racist school system.

Many progressive educators and youth, tired of dealing with and living with the racist conditions of the schools, were excited and encouraged when Carranza came out with guns blazing, claiming he would integrate one of the most segregated school systems in the country. His outward boldness in confronting the racism in schools was a marked difference from his predecessor Carmen Farina. In one of his first public appearances he declared, "We cannot have excellence, we cannot improve outcomes without tackling the inequities that exist in our system," (Chalkbeat, 9/4/18). Unsurprisingly, one year later, Carranza has failed to deliver on his seemingly anti-racist goals and is now in year two of his tenure and trying to tamper down expectations, "If I integrated the system, the next thing I'm going to do is I'm going to walk on water," (New York Times, 8/23).

We say that good schools are integrated schools, that good schools take the learning of each student seriously, and that it's impossible for a segregated school to be a good school. We also know that there are no good schools under capitalism.

## Real communists led anti-racism

The fight at Park Slope Collegiate (PSC) which began in 2010 around school integration illuminated how the DoE was building segregation by installing "elite" schools into neglected campuses where mainly Black and Latin students attended. Because of the united, militant, multiracial, and anti-racist fightback of students, parents, teachers and community members at the school throughout the years, the liberal bosses needed to ensure that other schools would not follow in PSC's example.

The bosses only want a showpiece adjustment to school segregation. One of the key lessons learned from the PSC struggle is that multiracial unity is the key to defeating racism and the bosses are incapable of creating a school system that serves the need of the working class.These liberal misleaders will never be able to give working class youth the education they deserve.

Not surprisingly, when faced with real anti-racist fightback, the DoE's response was to attack the school years later with claims of "Communist organizing" (New York Times, 5/4). This failed attempt at extinguishing the fightback happening at the school is deeply rooted in antiracist history going as far back to the Scottsboro Boys case in the 1930s and through the Civil Rights movement and beyond. Communists have led the multiracial fightback against racism in the streets, the schools and universities, the workplace, and the military.

The liberal bosses in NYC were counting on anti-communism to frighten and silence anyone who stood up against their racist policies. The investigation also laid bare the ugly reality that liberal politicians are the main enemy under capitalism. Even though this attack was initiated from three anti-communist staff members inside of the school, the DoE along with the liberal mayor, de Blasio and then school chancellor Carmen Farina, were silent during this attack on this integrating school while publically paying lip service to school integration.

## Fake anti-racism

Lip service is still all the bosses have delivered under Carranza and de Blasio. The liberal duo were unsuccessful in their attempt to increase the enrollment of Black and Latin students at the specialized high schools in what would have been the most prominent forced integration plan since the civil rights movement. The State Legislature killed the plan largely due to opposition from Asian lawmakers and a billionaire's lobbying push. Carranza and de Blasio have failed to convince them that they have to sacrifice to the cause of winning Black and Latin students into the system.

Carranza has also spent $23 million on instituting mandatory implicit bias training for all 125,000 of NYC's teachers along with more culturally responsive curriculum. The training essentially removes the blame from the bosses and the racist education system that they have created and supported and places it on individual teachers. We call on teachers to reject this fake anti-racist training and instead unite with their students and their parents and fellow education workers in fightback. We must train our future leaders to fight against the whole capitalist system.

## Defeat the bosses and their ideas

Capitalism causes the working class to fight for the scraps from their table. Instead of fighting for a system that meets the needs of the whole working class. Under communism, every school will be a place that meets the needs of its students. Education would be class conscious, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, and anti-sexist. Communism needs the workers to be educated to help to remake the world. The fight for school integration now is an opportunity to root this education in the struggle against the bosses whom we will have to defeat to win the world we deserve.✪


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